

# Is Your Vehicle Road-Ready?

Be Proactive with your Vehicle! A little routine maintenance ensures that your car or truck is mechanically sound before you hit the road. Car trouble brings an abrupt stop to your drive to work and puts you, your passengers and other motorists in a potentially hazardous situation. Vehicle breakdowns on the roadway usually involve not only a repair bill but costly towing charges as well as lost work time.

## MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Keep the gas tank at least half full.** This helps control condensation inside the tank, keeping your fuel free of water. It may also save you from running out of gas in an unexpected traffic jam.
- ☐ **Keep your tires properly inflated and inspect the tread for uneven wear,** indicating the need for wheel alignment. Also look for bulges and bald tires. Tires lose about one pound of inflation for every 10-degree drop in temperature.

### Can you see other drivers? Can they see you?

- ☐ **Windshield wiper blades** generally need replacing every 6 months. Keep the reservoir filled with wiper solvent.
- ☐ Be sure all your **lights** are working, including **headlights, brake lights, turn signals and emergency flashers.** If your vehicle is not equipped with headlights that turn on automatically, consider turning them on both day and night for optimum safety.

### Are you monitoring your monitors?

Warning indicator lights monitor critical functions of your vehicle and help drivers to avoid damage, so consult your owner's manual if a light remains on.

- ☐ Check the **oil** every other fill-up at the gas pump. Change oil as recommended in your owner's manual. Replace the filter each time.
- ☐ A dead **battery** is one of the most common reasons for a breakdown. Carry an auxiliary power source to boost a dead battery.
- ☐ Know your **brakes.** Brake failure is one of the most common causes of vehicle-related crashes. Learn the early warning signs of brake trouble, such as a squealing or scraping sound, a soft pedal action or pulling to one side.
- ☐ Routinely check the **power steering, brake and transmission fluid, engine oil, antifreeze coolant and windshield wiper solvent.** Routinely check **hoses and belts.**

## IMPORTANT ITEMS TO CARRY IN YOUR VEHICLE

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice scraper                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Disposable camera                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency flares                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle owner's manual           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare tire and jack                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean water                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic tool kit (screwdriver, wrench & hammer) | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare change                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Can of motor oil                              | <input type="checkbox"/> First-aid kit                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wheel chocks                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight with fresh batteries               | <input type="checkbox"/> Any regularly needed medications |

So before you head off for work, consider that you and your passengers are only as safe as your vehicle. With regular checks and maintenance you can expect a safer and more dependable car that's even more fuel-efficient.